

Rother District Council Annual Report 2013



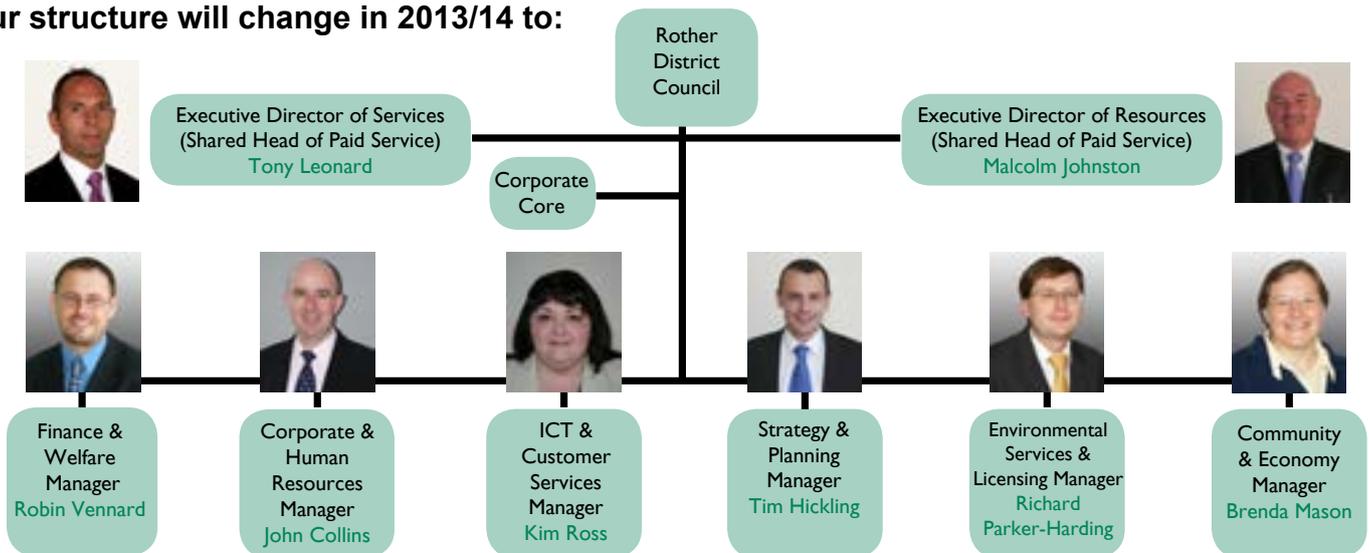
Foreword from Cllr Carl Maynard, Leader of Rother District Council



Welcome to our annual report to our residents, including our plans for 2013/14. I hope you enjoy this snapshot of some of the many diverse services we provide, over 50 in total, over the 200 square miles of the Rother district. 2012/13 was a year full of exciting events. We look ahead to 2013/14, and its changes with the confidence that we are building a Council able to continue delivering what residents need. All of this, and the lowest council tax and lowest staff numbers in East Sussex.

Every year we report what we have been doing over the past year. The Council adopted its long term Corporate Plan in 2006 with four aims: putting customers first, delivering value for money, building stronger safer communities and working in partnership. A new Corporate Plan will be adopted in 2013/14 to reflect our changing circumstances.

Our structure will change in 2013/14 to:



Putting Customers First

Our residents had their say on:



Council Tax Benefit Scheme



A Strategy for Bexhill Town Centre



A Strategy for Camber

In 2013 residents will continue to have their say on a number of subjects from budgets to byelaws.

The average new benefit claim had a decision within 20 days



Our website was up and running 99.9% of the year www.rother.gov.uk



82% of ordinary planning applications were processed in 8 weeks



85% of customers had their enquiry solved on first contact



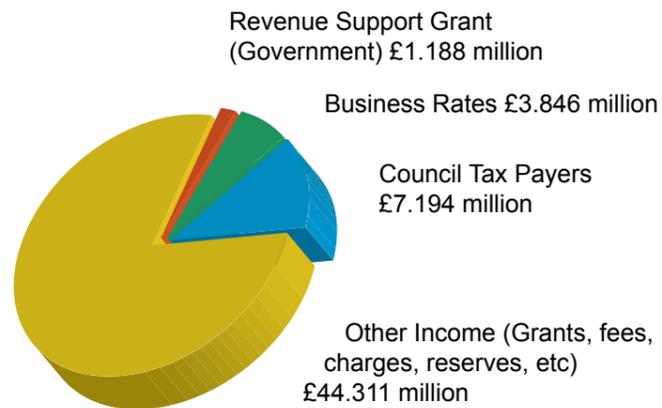
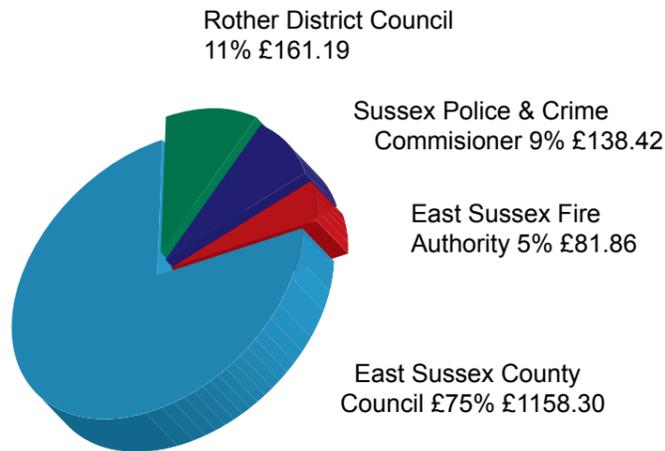
Delivering Value for Money

The Council will be saving a further £1.5 million by the end of 2014 by:

- Restructuring the Council, reducing staff and reducing our use of office space
- Creating more partnerships with other organisations
- Devolving functions, buildings and land to other organisations and reviewing our contracts
- Reviewing our business processes to increase efficiency
- Putting more services online
- Reviewing the number of councillors
- Looking at ways to increase our income through investment

Rother's portion of the Council Tax for 2013 for a Band D Property will be £161.19 a year. There has been no change in the Council Tax rate since 2010

The Council gets its money from many different sources, Council Tax is only one of them.



Service Area	2012/13 Net Budget	2012/14 Net Budget
Cultural and Related services	£3,203,390	£2,976,100
Environmental services	£5,661,130	£5,591,110
Planning and Development services	£2,135,410	£2,211,700
Highways and Transport services	(£607,000)	(£617,450)
Housing services	£1,086,600	£1,231,920
Corporate and Democratic services	£2,996,670	£2,957,690
Central Services to the Public	£940,210	£1,042,730
Other Operating Income and Expenditure	(£3,348,440)	(£2,668,780)
Total Budget	£12,067,970	£12,725,020

Find the Council's budget on www.rother.gov.uk/article/1059/budgets-and-accounts

We paid 99% of invoices on time or in 30 days



We collected 98.52% of the Council Tax owed



We collected £1,218,134 in car parking charges



We collected £522,206 in planning fees



Building Stronger, Safer Communities

In 2012/13 we supported a number of events and special occasions.

The Olympic Torch Relay in Bexhill, Battle and Rye



The Bexhill Sea Angling Festival, and we are supporting the Festival again in 2013



HRH Duke & Countess of Wessex opened the Diamond Jubilee walk, Bexhill



The annual Party in the Park at Egerton Park, Bexhill, featured the official opening of the new children's play area



Nearly 50% of rubbish sent for recycling or composting



We removed 100% of abandoned vehicles within 24 hours



Only 0.4% of public places were found with litter



We removed 100% of offensive graffiti within 24 hours



There was a 4.3% reduction in reported crimes in Rother



86% of inspected food premises found complaint with food law



Working in Partnership

We are **saving money by running our services in new partnerships** with neighbouring local authorities:

Legal Services
with Wealden
District Council



Environmental Health with
Wealden District Council



Internal Audit with
Wealden District
Council



Building Control with
Hastings Borough
Council



Ground breaking partnership for new waste collection and street sweeping contract

Rother District Council with Hastings, Wealden and Eastbourne Councils were able to save money by working together with new waste collection contractor, Kier.

This contractor will be responsible for household waste and recycling collection, street and beach cleaning services over the next 10 years.

The new scheme started in April 2013 in Eastbourne and Wealden and from April 2014 Rother and Hastings residents will also be benefitting.



The contract is the first of its type in the country and is potentially one of the largest contracts for this area of service delivery. It is worth around £120 million over the ten year period. Rother should see savings of at least £100,000 each year.

Parks and gardens contract helps three organisations save money

We will save £200,000 a year with our new new grounds maintenance contract, shared three ways with Hastings Borough Council and Amicus Horizon, a local housing association. All three organisations have made savings by combining their work in parks, gardens and open spaces into one overall contract.



**“Working with the community to
improve the overall
well-being of the District”**

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For more information: <http://www.rother.gov.uk/article/119/Performance-Management>

You can get a copy of this information in large print, audio tape or another language by telephoning 01424 787000